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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 17 December 1952

SUBJECT Bor Mines

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PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO 50X1-HUM
REPORT NO.

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Location

1. The mine workings, offices, and mills are located in and around Bor, 36 kilometers north of Zajecar and 20 miles west of the Bulgarian frontier. There are two roads from Belgrade to Bor, one direct, and the other via Kragujevac and Parcin which is very poor.

Production

2. The ore mined is mixed copper and iron pyrites. Production from the open cast mines is between 70,000 and 80,000 tons per month, while production from the underground mines is between 35,000 and 40,000 tons per month.

Rail Communications

3. Transportation is limited to a narrow gauge railroad. A new standard gauge railroad is being constructed and is expected to be completed within a year. Due to the harvest failure, however, financial provisions for the railroad may be difficult to maintain.

Construction

4. There are apparently no new buildings at Bor.

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New Mine

5. North of Bor, on the same geological formation, a new low grade copper mine is being opened.

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6. The new mine is located in the Majdanpek area and will be linked to the Danube by an aerial ropeway. The concentrates will be shipped by barge to a new smelting and electrolytic refinery being built at Sabac. The refinery is being built to serve the new mine and the concentrates from the Trepca zinc mines. The overburden is now being cleared and large tonnages of low grade copper ore (0.2 per cent) have been proved.²

Equipment

7. It appears that the open cast mines employ conventional bench working with mechanical excavators, and the ore is drilled and blasted.
8. In the underground mines electric battery locomotives are replacing much of the horse drawn transportation. Ore handling with slushers in scram drifts is practiced. The fill is also being handled with slushers underground.

Labor

9. The labor force seems to be complete and there are no labor problems although the workers are not as well paid nor as content as those at the Trepca mines.
10. A German technician is working as a geologist at the mines. He was apparently a prisoner of war and was retained by the management after the war. There appear to be others like him.
11. The average salary of a mining engineer is 20,000 dinars a month.
12. Food supplies are plentiful and the town has a local hotel where meals are fairly inexpensive (200 dinars).

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1. Comment: Low grade ore of this type could only be worked economically by intensive large scale operations

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2. Comment: The proved tonnage was "several hundred million tons."

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